

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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INFO SECDEF
CINCLANT
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USDAO OTTAWA
COMSC WASHDC
NORDA BAY ST LOUIS
COMDT COGARD
ONR ARLINGTON VA
COMLANT AREA COGARD GOV IS NY
OCEANAV ALEXANDRIA VA
USCGC WESTWIND
NORDA LO ARLINGTON VA
COMSCLANT BAYONE NJ

UNCLAS STATE 138987

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, CA

SUBJECT: NARES STRAITS OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH CLEARANCE
REQUEST - 26 JULY - 1 AUGUST 1977

1. IN ORDER TO SATISFY MILITARY RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS, THE
U.S. NAVY DESIRES TO CONDUCT OCEANOGRAPHIC SURVEYS IN THE
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NARES STARITS AREA DURING JULY AND AUGUST 1977. THE USCGC
WESTWIND (WAGB-281) WOULD DEPART THULE, GREENLAND, 8 JULY,
CONDUCT A BOTTOM SAMPLING PROGRAM IN THE KENNEDY AND ROBESON
CHANNELS AND KANE AND HALL BASIN AREAS FROM 26 JULY TO 1
AUGUST, AND RETURN TO THULE ABOUT 4 AUGUST.

2. USCGC WESTWIND (WAGB-281) IS A U.S. COAST GUARD ICEBREAK-

ER OPERATED BY THE MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND UNDER THE TECHNICAL DIRECTION OF THE OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH. WESTWIND IS MANNED BY A COAST GUARD CREW OF 18 OFFICERS AND 159 ENLISTED MEN AND WILL HAVE SIX U.S. NATIONAL CIVILIANS EMBARKED AS THE SCIENTIFIC PARTY. LIMITED SHIPBOARD FACILITIES MAKE HOST COUNTRY PARTICIPATION INCONVENIENT. HOWEVER, IF EMBASSY CONSIDERS SUCH INVITATION PRUDENT OR NECESSARY TO FACILITATE DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FOR MISSION, ONE OBSERVER CAN BE ACCOMMODATED. IN ANY CASE, BOTTOM SEDIMENT DATA AND ALL OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA COLLECTED ON THIS MISSION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE HOST COUNTRY ON REQUEST.

3. THE OCEANOGRAPHIC MISSION PLANNED IN NARES STRAITS IS A SCIENTIFIC R&D PROGRAM DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A WIDE SPECTRUM OF ENVIRONMENTAL DATA OF THIS SELDOM STUDIED AREA. THE PURPOSE OF THE BOTTOM SEDIMENT PORTION OF THE PROGRAM IS TO DETERMINE SEDIMENTARY PROCESSES IN HIGH ARCTIC ENVIRONMENTS. THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS LIST DESIRED SAMPLE SITES WHICH LIE WITHIN 3 NM OF ELLESMERE ISLAND OR ARE IN AREAS WITH WATER DEPTHS LESS THAN 100 FATHOMS: 80DEG 30MIN N, 69DEG W; 80DEG 45MIN N, 68DEG W; 81DEG 37.5MIN N, 65DEG W; 82DEG N, 62DEG W; 81DEG 45MIN N, 64DEG W; 82DEG 15MIN N, 61DEG W. IN ADDITION TO THE BOTTOM SAMPLING PROGRAM, IT IS PLANNED TO MOOR A SENSOR PACKAGE FROM FAST ICE TO THE BOTTOM. THE WATER DEPTH DESIRED IS BETWEEN 200 TO 400 FT. THE LOCATION OF THIS SENSOR WILL DEPEND ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FAST ICE OVER WATER DEPTHS IN THE PROPER RANGE. THIS SYSTEM IS AN EXPERIMENTAL SELF-CONTAINED SENSOR DESIGNED TO MEASURE AMBIENT ACOUSTIC, MAGNETIC, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND TEMPERATURE FLUCTUATIONS. SHIPBASED HELICOPTER SERVICE WILL BE REQUIRED TO TRANSPORT PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO THE MOORING SITE.

4. REQUEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA BE APPROACHED WITH THIS PROPOSAL AND THAT DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE BE REQUESTED FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST 1977. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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